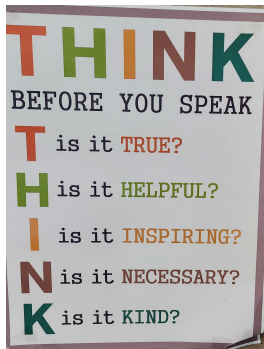


“The Fun One”

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 8, AUGUST 2023



*THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF FLOTILLA #1,
OF THE
GREAT PLAINS DIVISION
IN THE
8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION*



**Omaha NE Flotilla
TANGIER SHRINE CENTER
2823 S. 84th St.
Omaha, NE 68124**



FLOTILLA 33-1 OFFICERS

Flotilla Commander (FC) - Barclay Stebbins
 Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) - Barb Westcott
 Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC) - James Wolfe
 AUX Scout - Patrick Rezac
 Communications (FSO-CM) - Jim Westcott
 Communication Services (FSO-CS)- Ben Zimmerman
 Diversity (FSO-DV) - Barb Westcott
 Treasurer (FSO-FN) - George McNary
 Human Resources (FSO-HR) - James Wolfe
 Information Services (FSO-IS)-Barclay Stebbins
 Materials (FSO-MA) - Bernie McNary
 Marine Safety (FSO-MS) - Doug Ives
 Member Training (FSO-MT) - Jim Westcott
 Aids to Navigation (FSO-NS) - George McNary
 Operations (FSO-OP) - Barclay Stebbins
 Public Affairs (FSO-PA) - Patrick Rezac
 Publications (FSO-PB) - Barb Westcott
 Public Education (FSO-PE) - Cannon Kinchelow
 Program Visitor (FSO-PV) - Cannon Kinchelow
 Secretary (FSO-SR) - Cannon Kinchelow
 Vessel Examiner (FSO-VE)-Warren Koehler

Send articles for "The Fun One" to:
 Barb Westcott
 E-mail: kc0h1b@cox.net

Published by and for members of
 Omaha NE Flotilla
 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
 8th Western Rivers Region.
 Opinions expressed herein are not
 necessarily those of the
 U.S. Coast Guard or
 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**On Facebook we are found at:
 USCGAUX Flotilla 85-33-01**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Aug 5 **Division Social**
Aug 21 **Flotilla Meeting**
Sept 15-17 **BIZTRAIN - St. Louis**

**8WR DISTRICT MONTHLY TRAINING LOOK AT
 THE DISTRICT CALENDAR ON THE
 WOW WEBSITE TO FIND THE DATES**
 See the calendars and check our website
 for possible date changes, RBS dates and
 other operations.

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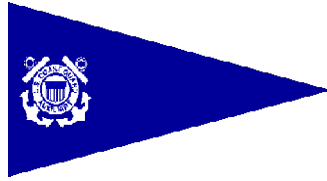
**Please remember to check out the
 website at:**

<http://a0853301.wow.uscgaux.info>



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FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MONTHLY LETTER



AUGUST 2023

The Coast Guard's official history began on 4 August 1790 when President George Washington signed the Tariff Act that authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling.

Here we are in August and the heat continues. I want to thank all of the members that attended the Flotilla Meeting/Fellowship hosted by the FC on 8 July. The weather was perfect and all of the side dishes and deserts were excellent. A good time was had by all and again THANK YOU! Division 33 is hosting Fellowship Picnic at the Auxiliary Station Omaha on 5 Aug. If you plan to attend please reach out to Barb Westcott.

We are still working out the details to get our Patrols back in action. SO-OP has put a tentative schedule together and we are reviewing it. There are a lot of weekends scheduled for the remainder of FY 23. It was a challenge to work around vacations and getting members out of REYR.

There are some public affairs activities still on the schedule. We had a booth at the Bellevue Farmers Market on 22 Jul. The hosts have granted us 4 free appearances. Members from our Flotilla and 33-03 participated and report good activity at the booth. We will put a schedule out for the remaining 3 so watch for those dates and participate if you can. Dundee Days 19 Aug, and numerous Free Kids Fishing events sponsored by Nebraska Game and Parks around the Omaha Metro area. That schedule can be found on their website.

Business time. Flotilla elections will be coming up this fall. If you plan to run for FC/VFC we need those Letters of Intent soon. Also, dues notices are coming so please watch for that and get them in.

Congratulations to Michael Bockman for completing all his requirements and is now BQ!

Thank you all for your hard work and continued dedication to our missions. You continue to do a fantastic job! I look forward to seeing all of you on 5 August at the Division Picnic.

Barclay Stebbins, FC



THE DIVERSITY MINUTE

This information can be found at:

[USCGAUX: National Commodore's Diversity Policy](#)

National Commodore's Diversity Policy

"Dependability, Integrity, Diversity"

Diversity is about our commitment to embrace men and women of all racial, cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds as full equal and vital members of our organization.

For more information on how the United States is moving forward on LGTBA issues, visit the White Houses page for the "[It Gets Better](#)" reform act.

National Commodore's Official Policy

It is the policy of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to ensure that all citizens, regardless of *race, gender, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, religion, or physical or mental disability* have an equal opportunity to become a volunteer of this organization. It is after all, part of our mission to become the volunteer organization of choice.

As the National Commodore, I will personally lead the diversity initiatives and challenge all who serve to do the same through leadership, mentorship, service, and example. As someone committed to diversity, I understand that providing training is one of the strategies that helps build an inclusive environment, which is crucial to attracting and retaining top talent, building member engagement, and fostering creativity and innovation. Our Strategic Plan for Managing Diversity will guide us in our efforts towards accomplishing this goal.

Diversity of thoughts, ideas, and competencies of our people, keeps the Auxiliary strong and empowers us to mission readiness and excellence.

Diversity is an imperative to the Auxiliary; it can increase morale and impact our success. In essence every member is responsible for fostering an inclusive team atmosphere and being a contributing part of Team Coast Guard.

The Auxiliary is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment, a journey guided by the deeply held values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty, as America's Guardians, we understand that diversity is not a problem to be solved, but is an asset to be developed.



INFORMATION BUG

AUGUST, 2023

The information for this article was found at:
[10 Open Water Safety Tips - NDPA](#)

10 OPEN WATER SAFETY TIPS

Lakes, beaches, and rivers are popular destinations for families during spring break and the summer season. It's the best way to have some fun family time and remain cool as soon as temperatures rise. Consider the open-water safety tips below if you decide to go this route on your next vacation.

Most children in the U.S. drown in open water, which includes natural bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, and oceans, as well as man-made bodies of water like canals, reservoirs, and retention ponds. In 2016, open-water drownings made up 43 percent of fatal childhood drownings.*

Beaches are a favorite destination during the summer months.

The first thing needed to prevent drowning incidents when in open water is learning how to swim, which has proven to be a lifesaving skill that can reduce the chances of drowning by 88%. Following the open water safety tips below will also ensure you have the most amount of fun by reducing the risks and hazards that come with open water.

1. SWIM IN A DESIGNATED SWIMMING AREA

Most state parks, beaches, and lakefront areas have designated times when swimming is allowed and use flags to indicate borders in which people can swim. Never swim outside those defined areas. Also, preferably swim under the supervision of a qualified lifeguard.

2. WHEN IN DOUBT, GET OUT

Don't hesitate to get out of the water if something doesn't feel right. Whether it's that the current is getting rough, rain has started to fall, or your body is just not responding like you would like it to due to fatigue or muscle cramps, then just leave and return to the water another day. It's always a good thing to trust your instincts.

Continued on the next page

3. Know The Weather And Water Conditions

Check the water temperature and weather conditions before hitting the water. If the water temperature is low, your best option would be to swim in a wetsuit and don't stay too long in the water. Bear in mind it's not safe to swim in the rain, particularly if there is thunder and lightning. If the weather changes, don't hesitate to swim back to shore.

4. Never Swim Alone

When you head out into the open water, go with a "swim buddy," someone who's looking out for you and who you're looking out for in turn. Remember, the lifeguard isn't your "swim buddy"; they have lots of people to track when on duty and cannot be concerned with a particular person's safety. Besides, you'll probably have more fun swimming with a friend.

5. CHOOSE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

It's very important always to choose the right equipment for your open water activity: wetsuits if the water is cold, goggles if swimming, and so on. Please note that if water temperatures are over 75-80 degrees, a wetsuit might not be a good idea. Using one for extended periods could cause heat exhaustion.

6. UNDERSTAND CURRENTS

Uncontrollables are all part of experiencing the ocean and open bodies of water. Rip tides, other currents, and waves can all sweep you away from your swimming route. By choosing a static "beacon" on your boat or at the shore you'll be able to determine if you are being swept away or not. If you do get caught in a rip tide, don't panic. Try to remain calm and swim parallel to shore to get out of it. If you try to swim against the current, you might get exhausted and really panic even more.

7. No Alcohol

Alcohol affects your perception of danger, making you more likely to take unnecessary risks. Alcohol also impairs your balance and coordination – all essential for swimming and boating and avoiding hazards in the water. So don't drink while in the water.

8. Wear A USCG-Approved Life Vest

Young children, weak swimmers, and everybody should wear life jackets whenever they are in, on, or around the water, even at a pool or a waterpark. It should be put on at the dock, deck, or shore and not removed until you return to dry land.

Continued on the next page

9. Have A Plan For Emergencies

Always have a plan to handle and face emergencies whenever you go out to the water with a swim buddy or alone. Tell someone else where you are going. Having someone watching from the shore, ready to take action should you need help, is wise. Plan for every possible incident and eliminate as much uncertainty as possible.

10. SWIM PARALLEL TO THE SHORE

If ever caught in a rip current, don't let fear cloud your judgment. You could be swept away from shore very quickly. The best way to escape a rip current is by swimming parallel to the shore instead of towards it since most rip currents are an average of 100 feet wide. Try to relax and breathe, keeping your head above water, and don't wear yourself out by trying to get out of the rip by swimming against the force of the current.

**Source: Hidden Hazards: An Exploration of Open Water Drowning and Risks for Children. Safe Kids Worldwide. May 2018.*



SAVE THE DATE OF AUGUST 5, 2023

***DIVISION 33 OF THE 8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION
WILL HOLD THEIR SUMMER PICNIC
IN HONOR OF THE COAST GUARD'S 231ST BIRTHDAY***

***THE LOCATION WILL BE THE AUXILIARY STATION OMAHA
LOCATED AT 9800 JOHN J PEERSHING DR. OMAHA
There will be a short meeting beginning at 1000 hrs
and lunch will start at 1100 hrs***

Your family is invited to attend.

The Division will provide hot dogs and hamburgers,

Please bring a side dish or desert to share.

Please let Barb Westcott know if you, and your family, will be attending.

Please advise of the dish you will be bringing .

ADULT BEVERAGES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED
If you wish soda, please bring for your family,
the Division will provide bottled water.

Contact information is:

Barb Westcott

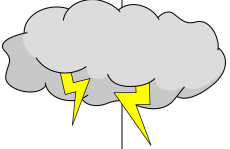

402-510-0308

kc0h1b@cox.net



August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Omaha Flotilla Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Omaha Flotilla Meeting	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

